



News  
from  
Congressman

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# BART STUPAK

**For Immediate Release**  
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## CONGRESSMAN ASKS FOR CMS REVIEW OF NMH

WASHINGTON – Congressman Bart Stupak, D-Menominee, today wrote to Thomas Scully, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in Washington, asking that CMS participate in the upcoming facility survey of Northern Michigan Hospital (NMH) to be undertaken in the near future by the State of Michigan Consumer and Industry Services.

Stupak also asked that CMS expedite the review in light of what the Congressman called “imprudent financial decisions” made by the hospital “that have adversely affected patient care”.

In asking that NMH provide CMS a complete report of infection and other health quality indicators, Stupak noted that the recent Blue Ribbon Report by a commission appointed by Governor Granholm documented reports of increasing infection rates among patients. He also pointed to reports that the working conditions for nursing staff had become unacceptable in the past two years because of cost-cutting by the NMH administration to fund a \$37 million dollar facility expansion.

The text of Stupak’s letter follows:

December 4, 2003

Thomas Scully, Administrator  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
200 Independence Avenue SW  
Room 314G  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Scully:

I would like to request that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) participate in the facility survey of Northern Michigan Hospital (NMH), which is expected to be undertaken soon by the State of Michigan Department of Consumer & Industry Services (MDCIS). I also recommend CMS expedite this review. To assist CMS, I would strongly urge CMS to review the Findings and Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel appointed by Michigan Governor Jennifer M. Granholm.

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## Stupak Letter to CMS, 2 of 2

The Blue Ribbon Panel report recommended that the NMH administration provide a public independent audit of all costs of temporary staff hired or under contract to fill vacancies resulting from the nurse's strike. We must learn whether the administration has undertaken imprudent financial decisions that have adversely affected the patient care provided at this hospital.

The Panel recommended a further careful "review [of] the testimony shared with the Panel by patients, their families, and medical personnel regarding cases of inadequate care." The Panel heard testimony of questionable health care practices, particularly in the area of "infection control and serious incidents involving patient care." Therefore, NMH should provide CMS with a complete report of infection and other health quality indicators as recommended by the Panel.

Finally, the Blue Ribbon Panel recommended a "full state licensure and federal certification survey using state and federal surveyors."

I would like to stress that a facility review by CMS and MDCIS must be done expeditiously in order to ensure that the patient care provided at this facility does not adversely affect the health care provided to the citizens of Northern Michigan. I appreciate your prompt consideration of my request and look forward to working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,

/S/

Bart Stupak

Member of Congress

BTS/gw

Attached: Blue Ribbon Panel Report to Governor;

"The Impact of the Labor Dispute at Northern Michigan Hospital on Health Care Services"